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#### REVIEW

**"ILLUSTRATIONS OF PTERIDOPHYTES OF JAPAN,"** volume 2, S. Kurata and T. Nakaike, eds. x + 648 pp. + map. 1981. University of Tokyo Press, yen 10,000 (about \$47).—This is the latest of a great array of excellent plant books produced in Japan for the large portion of the population seriously interested in botany. On the glossy paper of this lavish and heavy volume 100 Japanese ferns (from a total of nearly 800) are presented, each with a black and white photo of its appearance in the wild, a line drawing with insets of important details, and a dot map showing precise distribution in Japan. A separate section in the back has a photomicrograph of a spore of each species.

Almost everything is in Japanese, except for botanical names and numbers, so the value of the book for the non-reader of Japanese is in the illustrations. The sharp-detail photos put you inside the forests of Japan looking at moss-covered and lichen-covered trunks, and at boulders and embankments, and the ferns are right there looking just as they really do. The line drawings are not cosmeticized or stylized—the occasional small insect bite or other imperfection is faithfully rendered. What you see is what you get.

This volume deals mainly with *Asplenium* and the genera allied to *Polypodium* and *Grammitis*. Two new combinations are made, presumably due to the reinterpretation of a type specimen by Dr. Toshiyuki Nakaike: the fern usually known as *Neocheiropteris subhastata* (Bak.) Tagawa is renamed *N. buergeriana* (Miq.) Nakaike, and the fern that was *Microsorium buergerianum* (Miq.) Ching is now *M. brachylepis* (Bak.) Nakaike.

My only criticism is that about half the book is taken up by lists of localities that to a large extent duplicate information already available from the fine dot maps.—*M. G. Price, Herbarium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.*